

Message Text

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15

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-10 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

RSR-01 /182 W

----- 108792

R 041540 Z APR 73

FM AMCONSUL BELIZE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN UK BH

SUBJECT: U. K. DOLLAR AREA QUOTAS

REF: (A) STATE 016037 609, STATE 016807

1. DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 25- APRIL 1 MINISTER OF TRADE AND
INDUSTRY ALEXANDER A. HUNTER HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS
CITRUS PREFERENCES WITH MESSRS. BURNS, SIMMONS, RUDD AND ALLEN
OF THE FOREIGN AND COLONIAL OFFICE IN LONDON. OF IMMEDIATE
CONCERN WAS THE COMPLAINT OF THE U. S. BEFORE GATT SCHEDULED TO
BE HELD IN APRIL. THE BRITISH, ACCORDING TO HUNTER, BELIEVE
" THEY ARE IN FOR A ROUGH GO." HUNTER TOLD THE CONSULATE
GENERAL APRIL 2 THAT BRITISH HONDURAS HAD A DIRECT INTEREST IN
THIS COMPLAINT AND ASKED US TO PASS ALONG TO THE DEPARTMENT
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THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN. AFTER EXPLAINING THE U. S. POSITION TO HUNTER, HE ALLOWED THAT BRITISH HONDURAS WOULD NOT BE SO CONCERNED IF IT WERE ASSURED OF CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE U. S. MARKET. WE POINTED OUT THAT BRITISH HONDURAS IS SHIPPING CITRUS CONCENTRATE TO THE U. S. HE ALLOWED THAT THIS WAS SO, BUT HE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER "STRONG LOBBIESTS" WHO MIGHT CAJOLE THE U. S. CONGRESS OR THE EXECUTIVE INTO APPLYING IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.

2. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE ANY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES WOULD BE ABLE TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GATT PROCEEDINGS ON APRIL 13, EVEN THOUGH THE U. K. STRONGLY URGED THEM TO DO SO. THE REASON IS THAT A HEADS- OF- GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE IN GUYANA OF THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE NOT YET ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE WILL NOT END UNTIL APRIL 11. OTHER MINISTERS BESIDES THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO ATTEND. HUNTER HOPES THAT THE HEADS OF THE VARIOUS CITRUS ASSOCIATIONS WILL ATTEND TO REPRESENT THE CARIBBEAN PRODUCERS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: BECAUSE HUNTER DOES NOT SEE PREFERENTIAL CITRUS ARRANGEMENTS TO BE OF MUCH CONCERN TO BRITISH HONDURAS AS LONG AS THE CITRUS INDUSTRY HERE HAS ACCESS TO THE U. S. MARKET, THE CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF ANY U. S. REGULATIONS LIMIT ACCESS TO THE MARKET. FURTHER EBD# WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THE USG IS CONTEMPLATING ANY ACTION AT THE PRESENT TIME TO LIMIT CITRUS IMPORTS. DRISCOLL

NOTE BY OC/ T: (#) AS RECEIVED.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENEVA
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KINGSTON
LONDON
NASSAU

PORT OF SPAIN
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